



**DECISION NOTICE AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
GREATER PRESCOTT TRAILS MID-TERM PROJECTS
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
BRADSHAW RANGER DISTRICT
PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA**

DECISION

Based upon my review of the Greater Prescott Trails Mid-Term Projects Environmental Assessment (EA), I have decided to implement the proposed action, which would improve the Prescott National Forest trail system in the Prescott Basin and neighboring areas by approving the adoption of 33 miles of unauthorized trails with reroutes to address natural resource concerns; construction of up to 40 miles of new trails; improvement of 6 trailheads/parking areas currently in use; and the creation of 2 new trailheads. This process will also mitigate, obliterate, and decommission approximately 35 miles (5 miles mapped) of unnecessary, unsustainable, and/or duplicate trails. These activities will provide additional trail opportunities, trail connections, and reasonable access points, and reduce or limit resource damage from soil erosion.

DECISION RATIONALE

The Greater Prescott Mid-Term Trails projects were developed over the course of several years working with partners, resource specialists, and the public to identify a sustainable trail system in the area that was responsive to the preferences of various trail users. This is the third analysis and decision to implement trails projects based on this collaborative effort. The condition of some trails and trailheads in the greater Prescott area, and the number of unauthorized trails, have been a cause of some concern. With the projects analyzed within this decision, we expect to greatly improve the quality of non-motorized recreation opportunities in the area.

The Greater Prescott Trails Mid-Term Projects EA documents the environmental analysis and conclusions upon which this decision is based.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This action was developed collaboratively with several organizations and individuals. It was originally listed as a proposal on the Prescott National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions in October of 2015 and has been updated periodically during the analysis. People were invited to review and comment on the proposal during a scoping period from March 9 through April 8, 2016, and a public meeting on March 28, 2016. There was a 30-day comment period beginning September 20, 2016. The EA lists agencies and people consulted on pages 39-40.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The project was designed in conformance with the desired conditions for trails (Forest Plan page 48), with Objectives 11, 16, 17 for trails and trailheads (Forest Plan pages 62-63), and with Guidelines Rec-5 and Rec-7 (Forest Plan pages 82-83).

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and EA were considered. I determined these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The significance of environmental impacts must be considered in terms of context and intensity. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human and national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.

Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. In the case of a site-specific action, significance usually depends upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Intensity refers to the severity or degree of impact. (40 CFR 1508.27)

CONTEXT

The context for these trail and trailhead projects is local in nature and would not have notable impacts beyond the project area.

INTENSITY

The intensity of effects was considered in terms of the following:

Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that, on balance, the effect will be beneficial. Consideration of the intensity of environmental effects was not biased by beneficial effects of the action.

The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety. There will be no significant effects on public health and safety because the design and location of trails and trailheads focuses on public safety. During construction, proper equipment, protective gear, and signage will be employed to ensure safety of workers and the public.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area, such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area. There are no farmlands, Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs), or Wilderness areas within the project area. There are no eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River reaches.

The area is known to contain cultural resources of both prehistoric and historic periods. Before any new construction or re-construction commences, the proposed locations will be surveyed, and if any new features are found, the forest archaeologist would be notified and proper measures taken (see EA, page 37).

The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. There is no known credible scientific controversy over the impacts of the proposed action. This environmental analysis is tiered to the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Forest-wide effects of the Forest Plan's standards were disclosed in that EIS. The proposed action with the identified resource protection measures meets Forest Plan direction.

The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The Agency has considerable experience with projects that are similar to the proposed action. The analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk. The Forest recreation specialists have a great deal of experience in trail and trailhead construction and such work has occurred over decades. The Interdisciplinary Team that conducted the analysis used the results of past actions as a frame of reference, and combined that insight with scientifically accepted analytical techniques and best available information to estimate effects of the proposal (See EA Pages 12-38).

The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects because it is a stand-

alone decision and each trail or recreation project is evaluated independently on its own merits. Major follow-up actions will not be necessary.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. The cumulative impacts have been displayed in this analysis in both the EA and in specialist reports contained in the project record. Based on the discussions in the EA, specialist reports, and information identified during public review, I have concluded that there are no significant cumulative impacts.

The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Areas proposed for ground-disturbing activities will be surveyed and all cultural resources or historic sites will be avoided.

The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The Wildlife, Fisheries, and Rare Plants Report serves as the Biological Evaluation for the Greater Prescott Mid-Term Trails Projects and documents the effects on species and habitat. The only Federally-listed species known to occur in the project area is the Mexican spotted owl. None of the proposed actions occur within any identified Mexican spotted owl protected activity center or recovery habitat (see EA, page 34). Therefore there would be no significant impacts to threatened or endangered species.

Whether the action threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. This project is fully consistent with the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the Clean Water Act, and the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.

After considering the effects of the actions analyzed, in terms of context and intensity, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

be implemented;

5. A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and
6. A statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

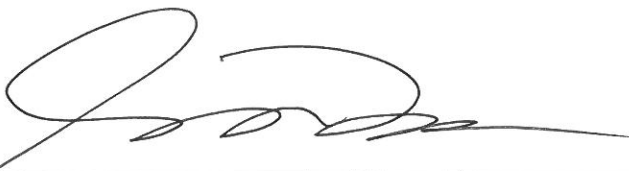
Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

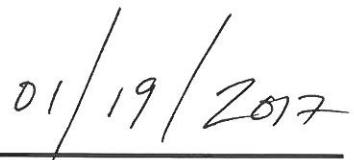
If no objections are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, the 5th business day from the close of the objection filing period. When objections are filed, there will be a 45-day period in which to resolve the objection.

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this project, contact: Susan Johnson, Project Lead at 928-443-8075, or by email to sajohnson@fs.fed.us. For information on the objection process, contact Gabrielle Kenton, Objections Coordinator, at 928-443-8221, or by email to gkenton@fs.fed.us.



Sarah Tomsy



Date

Bradshaw District Ranger

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (OBJECTION) OPPORTUNITIES

The Greater Prescott Mid-Term Trails Projects is an activity implementing a land management plan and not authorized under the HFRA and is subject to the objection process of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

HOW TO FILE AN OBJECTION AND TIMEFRAME

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Reviewing Officer Teresa Chase, Forest Supervisor, 344 South Cortez, Prescott, AZ 86303, FAX: (928) 443-8008, or electronically at: objections-southwestern-prescott@fs.fed.us.

Electronically filed objections may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html). Please include Greater Prescott Mid-Term Trails Projects in the subject line.

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in the Prescott *Daily Courier*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

1. The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
2. A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection);
3. When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);
4. The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will



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Proposed Action

This proposal would improve the Forest trail system in the Prescott Basin and neighboring areas by approving the adoption of 33 miles of unauthorized trails with reroutes to address natural resource concerns; construction of up to 40 miles of new trails; improvement of 6 trailheads/parking areas currently in use; and the creation of 2 new trailheads. This process will also mitigate, obliterate, and decommission approximately 35 miles (5 miles mapped) of unnecessary, unsustainable, and/or duplicate trails. The primary purpose for action is to provide additional trail opportunities, trail connections, and reasonable access points, and to reduce or limit resource damage from soil erosion. Reducing or limiting resource damage on trails is completed by using sustainable design and construction methods. Generally this is accomplished by designing sections of trail that follow the natural contour of the terrain and use reversals in grade (undulating the trail surface) to achieve drainage for water. This typically makes trail segments longer and more moderate for the user, significantly reduces erosion and allows for long-term maintenance costs to be reduced.

Most trails in this proposal will be open to hikers, bikers, and equestrians. These multi-use non-motorized trails will primarily be designed for Pack and Saddle (equestrian). Twelve miles of trails in the Emmanuel Pines area will be designed for primary uses of biking and hiking and will fit a lower standard not recommended for equestrian use. Vegetation clearing of these trails will be to a lesser standard and may have tight rocky sections that would be unsafe for most equestrian travel. The purpose of these trails is not to exclude equestrians, but to provide a naturally challenging opportunity for bicyclists and hikers. Additionally in this proposal there are 13.5 miles of trails designed for 50-inch and less motorized travel. These trails provide critical connection between trail systems to allow non-street legal motorized users long-distance routes around the city of Prescott. These routes provide long distance routes for other users as well.

Construction will be completed by volunteers, forest personnel, and/or partner organizations. Construction methods could include hand tools or mechanized equipment to create a 12-48 inch wide trail tread for non-motorized trails and 50-inch wide trails for motorized use. Obliteration of sections of unsustainable unauthorized trail and restoration of gullies on fall line trails will be achieved through covering the disturbed area with brush, rocks, and logs to prevent further erosion. New construction will follow the natural contour of the terrain and use reversals in grade. Some of the trails in the Emmanuel Pines area will be routed over rock and advanced trail armoring techniques will be used to stabilize these trails while still providing for challenging opportunities. These actions will allow for more natural hydrologic conditions. Signs indicating “restoration in progress” will be installed to ensure old trail segments are not used. It is expected that maintenance of proposed trails will be completed through a combination of volunteers, partners, grants, and Forest Service trail crews. Generally, trail maintenance costs range from \$200-\$2,000/mile depending on sustainability of design and brush component on the individual trails. Maintenance of the proposed newly designed trails compared to poorly designed trails is expected to be significantly less and on average may be around \$500/mile when averaging out the brushing needs.

Details on the individual trail proposals and trailhead proposals are listed by area in the tables below (mileage is rounded to the nearest tenth).

Table 1 Proposed Trail Actions – Area A

Trail No.	Existing	Name	Managed Uses	Trail Class*	Description	Length (miles)
748	yes	Valley Loop	Horse, Hike, Bike	4	Provide more accessible and beginner loop opportunities for all users. A variety of unauthorized trails exist in the area. Will encourage all users to maintain a safe and courteous speed to provide safety and enjoyable trail experience for beginner trail users.	1.1

Table 2 Proposed Trailhead Actions - Area A

Name	Type	Existing	Size	Facilities	Description
Stringfield	Non-motorized	Yes-parking only	1 Acre-5-8 stock trailers	no	Existing Parking Area, proposal would allow for improving and expanding parking and trail information (kiosk) as equestrian use in the area increases.
Contreras	Multiuse	Yes	1 Acre-8-10 trailers	no	Existing Parking Area, needs leveling, surfacing, barrier rock, and trail information

* Trail Class establishes the Design Parameters or technical guidelines for survey, design, construction, maintenance, and assessment of National Forest System trails. The lower the number the lower the level of design, construction, etc. The higher the number the higher the design, construction, etc. Trail Class 1 would be like dispersed camping, no amenities. Trail Class 5 would be like RV camping with full hook-ups. Additionally, Trail Class considers the intended user. Parameters for an equestrian trail differ from bicyclist or hiker parameters. Motorized parameters are different than non-motorized.

Table 3 Proposed Trail Actions - Area B

Trail No.	Existing	Name	Managed Uses	Trail Class*	Description	Length (miles)
738	no	Williams Peak	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Moderate difficulty, longer loop for all users, will help disperse use and connect Sierra Prieta to White Rock TH and Prescott Circle Trail.	5.1
743	no	Saddle	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Moderate difficulty Connector to West Spruce Trail from trail 738	0.8
744	no	Ceanothaus	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Moderate difficulty, part of longer loop for all users, disperse use. Old FR 9707T serves same purpose, but is steep, eroded, and unsustainable	0.7
366-Ext	yes	Sierra Prieta	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Conversion of road 9401J and motorized trail 366 to non-motorized trail to connect Prescott Circle Trail to Sierra Prieta. New trail is shown rerouted off old road to achieve more sustainable design.	1.8
264-Ext	no	West Spruce	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Extension of the existing West Spruce Trail 264 connecting Doce Pit Rd to Skyline Dr. to Copper Basin Rd	3.2
742	Partially	Aspen Springs	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Connect Overlook to Copper Basin Equestrian Parking to Aspen Creek Trail and Prescott Circle Trail.	2.7
741	no	Quaky	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Equestrian Connection to Prescott Circle Trail	1.0
737	yes	Moby	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Unauthorized trail exists now, needs to be rerouted off old road bed on northeast end.	1.8
382-ext	no	Ponderosa	Multi-use Motorized	3	Motorized Connection from Schoolhouse to Copper Canyon, allows more opportunity for the non-street legal vehicles to get around Prescott. Non-street legal vehicles can ride from Newtown Ave TH (Dewey-Humboldt) to Skull Valley. Same trail proposal for east side of White Spar Rd in Area C	3.7
Total Miles:						20.8

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Table 4 Proposed Trailhead Actions - Area B

Name	Type	Existing	Size	Facilities	Description
Spence Springs	Non-motorized	No	1 acres 10-15 cars	Restrooms, trash, picnic tables	This is a new trailhead, does not exist currently as a parking area. This trailhead would be the primary non-equestrian Emmanuel Pines access
Iron Springs	Non-motorized	Yes	1 acre 3-4 trailers, 5- 10 cars	Restrooms, trash, picnic tables	
Copper Basin	Non-motorized	No	2 acres 4-5 trailers, 5 cars	Restrooms	Equestrian TH for Emmanuel Pines and the circle trail. Provide for Equestrian Parking as the current Aspen Creek TH is too small and would be difficult to expand. Would displace some designated dispersed camping. Interpretation in the Aspen stands, day use area for picnicking. Install gate on FR9402D at perimeter of TH

Table 5 Proposed Trail Actions – Area B - Emmanuel Pines

Trail No.	Existing	Name	Managed Uses	Trail Class*	Description	Length (miles)
761	yes	Dinner Plate	Hike & Bike	2	For advanced users	0.8
760	Partially	Noodle	Horse, Hike, Bike	4	Easy/more accessible loop, will encourage all users to maintain safe and courteous speeds	1.2
702	yes	Spork	Horse, Hike, Bike	4	Connection from TH to system	0.3
709	yes	Sante Fe	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Old railroad grade	4.6
708	no	Clown Town	Hike & Bike	2	Connects to Alto Pit System	0.7
712	Yes	Skyline	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Connection to highland pines at the Fire Station	0.6
719	yes	Short Loop	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Connection for equestrians back to Prescott Circle Trail, short loop	0.2
729	yes	BLM	Hike & Bike	2		1.0
733	yes	waterline	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Admin Road for Community waterline	1.8

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Trail No.	Existing	Name	Managed Uses	Trail Class*	Description	Length (miles)
707	no	Backside	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Connects EP to the T-Butte system, small segment along creek exists currently as part of Firewater	2.1
728	yes	Tataunka	Hike & Bike	2	Advanced/Intermediate difficulty	1.5
704	yes	Thank You	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Need easement from camp EP to cross corner	1.0
724	yes	Missing Link	Hike & Bike	2	Advanced difficulty	1.5
736	yes	The Village	Hike & Bike	2	Advanced difficulty	0.2
727	yes	rock drop	Hike & Bike	2	Advanced difficulty	0.3
735	no	Tomato Slice	Hike & Bike	2	Short connector	0.7
703	partially	Italian Job	Hike & Bike	2	Advanced	1.1
762	yes	Neighborhood	Hike & Bike	3	Connects the neighborhood to the TH and the EP system	0.2
332-R-1	no	Javelina	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Slight reroute of Circle Trail	0.1
332-R-2	no	Javelina	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Slight reroute of Circle Trail	0.1
701	yes	Juniper Gate	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Intermediate difficulty	1.1
706	yes	Vista	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Easy/intermediate difficulty	1.4
710	yes	Ledge	Hike	2	View point trail	0.1
705	yes	Happy Ending	Hike & Bike	2	Advanced/Intermediate difficulty	0.2
725	partially	West Side Story	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Intermediate difficulty - reroutes planned	2.4
721	yes	Sidekick	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Intermediate difficulty	1.0
714	yes	Tunnel	Hike & Bike	2	Goes under railroad grade	2.3

Total Miles: 28.5

Table 6 Proposed Trail Actions - Area C

Trail No.	Existing	Name	Managed Uses	Trail Class ^a	Description	Length (miles)
382-ext	partially	Ponderosa	Multi-use Motorized	3	Motorized Connection from Schoolhouse to Copper Canyon, allows more opportunity for the non-street legal vehicles to get around Prescott. Non-street legal vehicles can ride from Newtown Ave TH (Dewey-Humboldt) to Skull Valley. Same trail proposal for west side of White Spar Rd in sub Area B	2.5
749	no	Marapai	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Connects Groom Creek Horse Camp Trails to White Spar and Prescott Circle Trail also connects smaller communities to Prescott.	4.7
751	no	Bean Peaks	Horse, Hike, Bike	3	Prescott Circle Trail connector from Marapai trail to Prescott Circle Trail near Goldwater lake. Provides additional long distance loop opportunity.	2.4
750	no	Hassayampa	Horse, Hike, Bike	2	Non-motorized alternative to 384	5.1

Total Miles: 14.7

Table 7 Proposed Trailhead Actions - Area C

Name	Type	Existing	Size	Facilities	Description
White Spar	Multiuse	Yes	2 acres 20 cars, 3-4 trailers	Yes	Propose accommodating all users. Provide picnic facilities, water, bathrooms. Possibly charge a fee.
Goldwater	Non-motorized	Partially	1 acre 2-3 trailers	maybe	School bus turnaround just before Goldwater lake. Could provide for good equestrian parking

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Table 8 Proposed Trail Action - Area D

Trail No.	Existing	Name	Managed Uses	Trail Class*	Description	Length (miles)
745	Partially	Hoot Owl	Multi-use Motorized	3	Connector for all users from Bannie Mine Rd and Smith Ravine Trail to Seven-mile Gulch, and Salida Gulch making larger motorized loops possible from the Blue Hills Trail System to Skull Valley	7.3

Table 9 Proposed Trailhead Action - Area D

Name	Type	Existing	Size	Facilities	Description
Watershed	Multiuse	Yes	1 acre 10 cars	maybe	Could be improved and enlarged, maybe a restroom could be added

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Maps of all trail proposals and trailhead proposals are depicted on the overview and area maps listed below. These maps reflect only general trail locations because GPS field verification is incomplete. These maps are meant to facilitate analysis of potential resource concerns, assist with issue identification, and to reflect the intended recreation experience. Potential reroutes of many unauthorized trails are reflected in these maps.

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|--------|
| 1. | GPTP Overview | 4. | Area B |
| 2. | Emmanuel Pines Detail | 5. | Area C |
| 3. | Area A | 6. | Area D |

Appendix A.

Project Mitigations and BMPs

All trails authorized through this proposal will be accurately mapped and flagged on the ground before construction. Efforts will be made to follow the proposed alignment as close as possible during layout with the following resource objectives guiding implementation.

1. Cultural Resource Mitigation Measures:

The large multi-component (prehistoric/historic) site at proposed trailhead, Spence Springs, will require site mitigation if the current trail head plan moves forward. Site mitigation by outside archaeological contractors could include a site testing plan. Site testing and possible excavations will require SHPO and tribal consultation. Site testing could show that more archeological work is needed.

Approximately 5.6 miles of new trail segments will need to be surveyed.

To ensure avoidance of cultural resources, trails may need to be realigned or closed off completely. As GIS maps and the proposed trail system are updated, Heritage Resource site plots may increase or decrease.

All known sites would be protected as directed by Forest Archaeologist and detailed in an archaeological clearance report.

Prior to implementation, all sites flagged for avoidance will be re-checked to make sure all flagging remains in place. This is especially important if there has been a lapse in time between flagging and implementation.

If sites are found during project layout or implementation, these activities would cease in the area of the site until a Forest Service archeologist can assess the discovery.

2. Wildlife

Final trail alignments in area B (outside of the Emmanuel Pines), area C, and D that are located in Mexican Spotted Owl Critical Habitat will be coordinated with and require final approval from the forest's wildlife specialist

3. Soils

If a final trail alignment falls within a high risk area, 40% or greater slope gradient, and/or severe plasticity soils, coordination will occur with the forest's soil's specialist before construction to ensure proper documentation and adherence to Best Management Practices (BMPs)

4. Hydrology

Standards which reduce sediment include: out-sloped trails and gradient reversal every 40 feet on trails with a 2-10% gradient and every 20 feet on trails with a gradient greater than 10% will decrease sediment. If a final trail alignment falls in a Streamside Management Zone (SMZ), coordination will occur with the forest's hydrologist and BMPs will be established to ensure proper mitigation for protection of these areas. Additional mitigations measures, such as hardening, armoring with additional rock and additional rolling dips, will be implemented where

trails features lie within SMZ's, on sensitive soils, or deemed pertinent to protect soil and water resources.

5. Range Mitigation Measures:

To avoid gates being left open, it is essential to properly design gates so that trail users can easily close them, or provide walk-throughs where the trail passes through a barbed wire cattle fence. Walk-throughs may not be preferential on mountain bike trails. Where gates are used there should be signage on the gates telling trail users that gates must be kept closed. Trails that will receive equestrian use should have gates that can be opened and closed while on horseback. Gates should have easy latching mechanisms. Self-closing gates have been used on some forests with success. At trailheads there should be either walk-throughs or good quality equestrian gates. Trail user conflicts with cattle are possible. Signage about cattle being in the area can educate forest users about the multiple use nature of Forest Service lands.

Soils and Hydrology Best Management Practices and Protection Measures

The following are recommended practices to mitigate the risk of sedimentation:

- Stabilizing slopes, creating natural vegetation buffers, diverting runoff from exposed areas, controlling the volume and velocity of runoff, and conveying that runoff away from the construction area all serve to reduce erosion.
- During trail construction, minimize the amount of soil disturbance at stream crossings.
- Trail construction is best done during the dry months when soil saturation and water levels are at their lowest.
- The three most important factors to consider during trail construction are the character of the land itself (soil, slope, and vegetative cover), the type of expected use, and the volume of that expected use.
- Some trail construction areas may need to be stabilized if heavy traffic is expected on the trail.
- Install temporary erosion control measures before construction of new trails begins. Keep them in place and maintained during construction and remove them only after the site has been stabilized.
- In areas of high traffic or steep slopes, armor the trail with large material and increase the occurrences of gradient reversal.

Invasive Species Management

The following are recommended practices to mitigate the risk of spreading invasive species on new and existing trails (**From Guidance for Invasive Species Management in the Southwestern Region**):

Best Management Practices (BMPs) that may be implemented to prevent establishment of invasive plants by off-road vehicles and equipment include—

- Map invasive weed-infested areas and establish measures such as no-travel zones to prevent spread from these areas. Ensure that areas designated as open to cross-country travel under the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.51) are actively managed for weeds.
- Locate weed-free areas where project equipment can be staged prior to commencement of project activities.
- Avoid invasive species populations when feasible and minimize spread of invasive species during any soil disturbing activities.

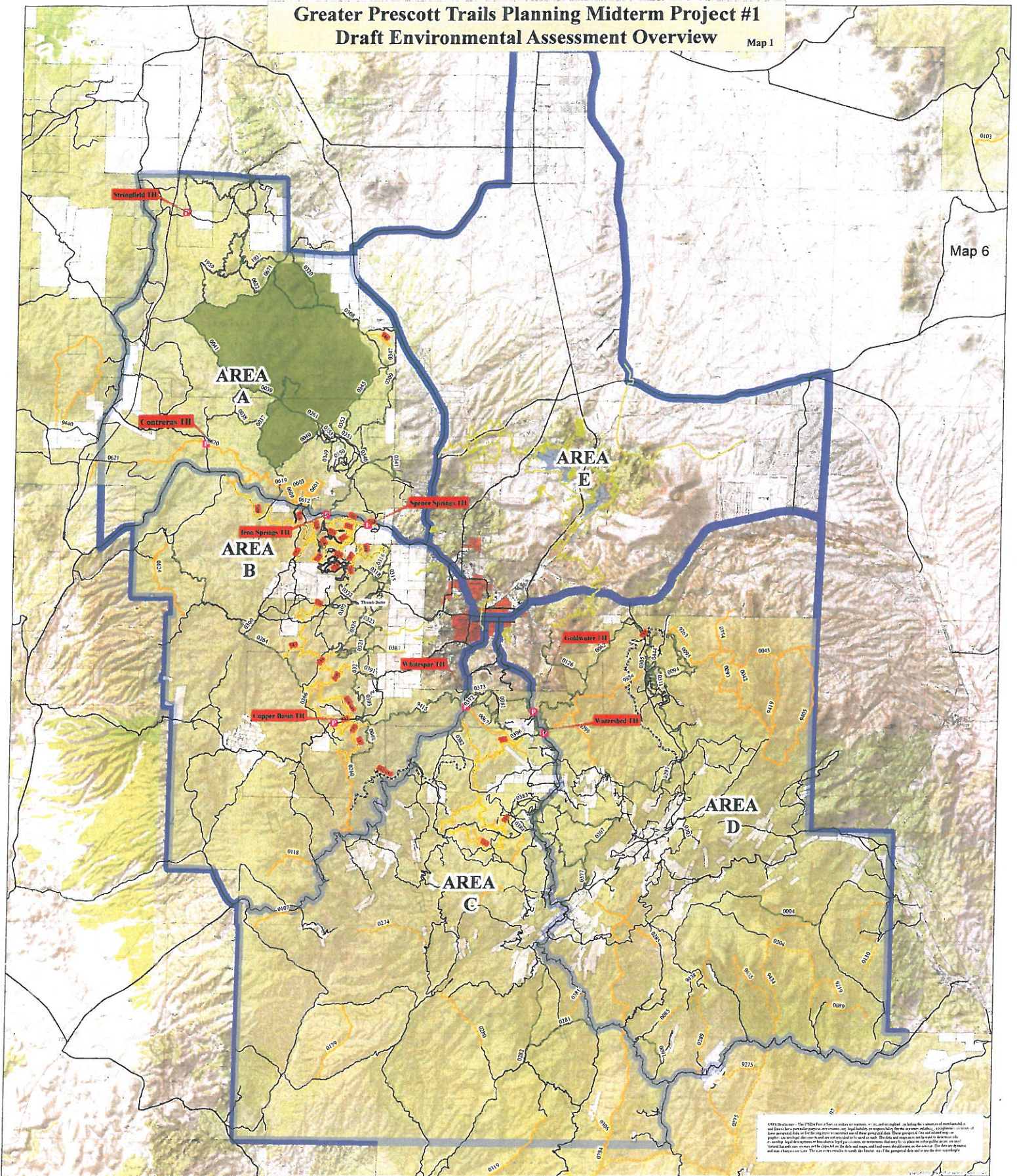
Measures that can be taken to prevent spread of invasive weeds in recreational areas include—

- Post messages on weed awareness and prevention practices at strategic locations such as trailheads, roads, boat launches, and forest entrances. Messages should discourage picking of unidentified “wildflowers” and discarding them along trails or roadways.
- Promptly post sites if invasive plant species are found and, if feasible, close access until infestation is controlled. In areas susceptible to weed infestations, limit vehicles to designated and maintained travel routes.
- Encourage public land users to inspect and clean motorized and mechanized trail vehicles of weeds and their seeds before recreating on public lands. If practical, provide facilities for cleaning contaminated vehicles and equipment.
- Annually inspect all campgrounds, trailheads, and recreation areas that are open to public vehicle use for weeds and treat new infestations. Chronic weed infestations should be assessed as to why they are occurring, and steps should be taken to mitigate or reduce the risk of infestation. Consider seasonal or full time closure to campgrounds, picnic areas, and other recreation use areas until weeds are reduced to levels that minimize potentials for spread.
- Maintain trailheads, boat launches, outfitter and public camps, picnic areas, airstrips, roads leading to trailheads, and other areas of concentrated public use in a weed-free condition.
- Inspect and document travel corridors in recreation sites for weeds and treat well before seed production. In areas susceptible to weed infestation, limit vehicles to designated travel routes.

Greater Prescott Trails Planning Midterm Project #1 Draft Environmental Assessment Overview

Map 1

Map 6



Legend

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Proposed Trails | Ownership |
| — Multiuse-Motorized | Forest |
| — Hike & Bike | Other |
| --- Hiking Only | USFS System Trails |
| ... Horse, Hike, Bike | Motorized |
| ■ Proposed Trailheads | Non-Motorized |
| ■ Wilderness | City of Prescott Trails |
| | Planning Area Boundaries |



0 2.5 5 Miles

1:53,000



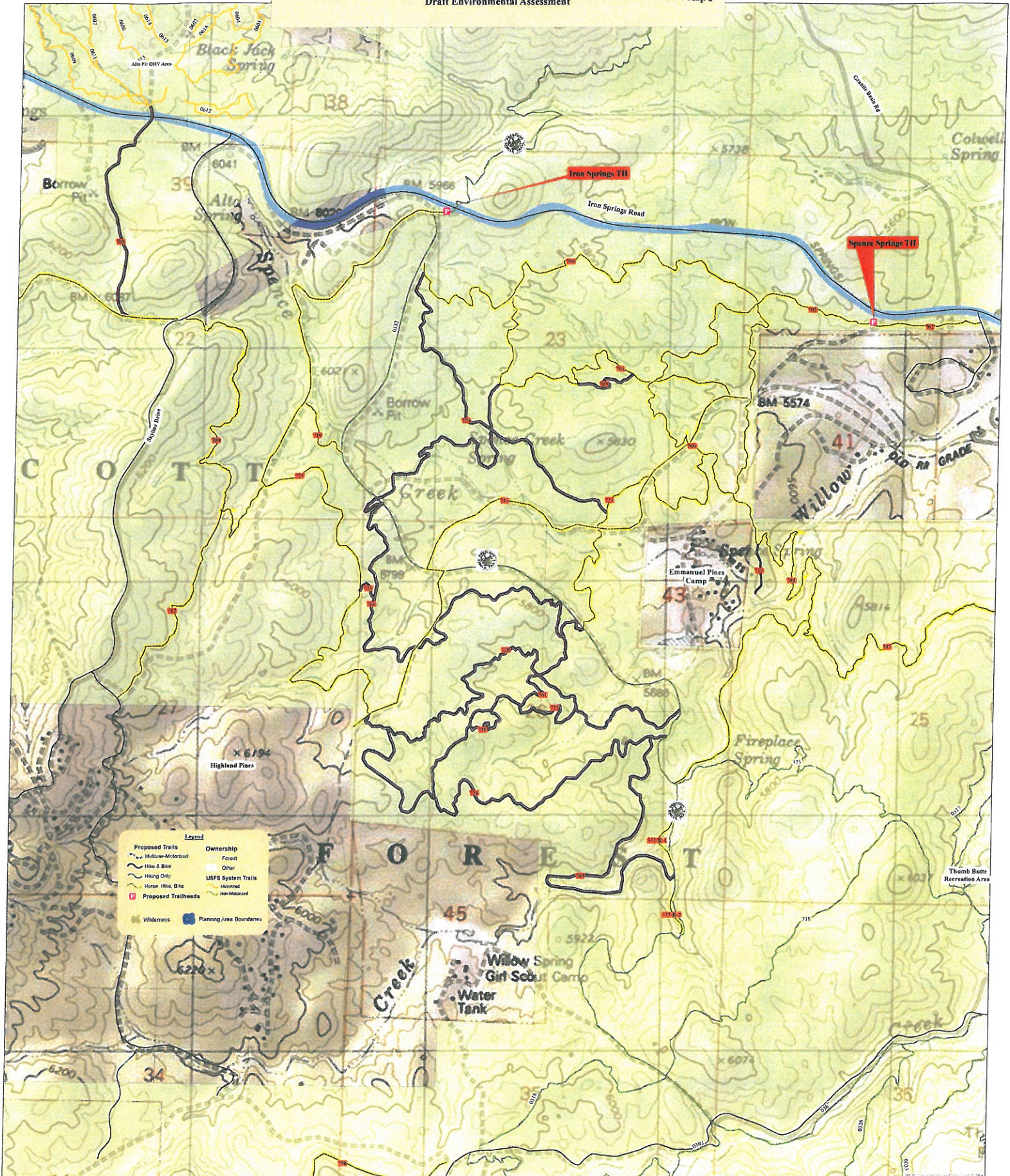
USDA Forest Service
Prescott National Forest
Bradshaw Ranger District
Version: 08152016JW

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Emmanuel Pines

Greater Prescott Trails Planning Midterm Project #1
Draft Environmental Assessment

Map 2



USDA Forest Service
Prescott National Forest
Bradsheaw Ranger District
Version: 081816JW



1:5,000 0 0.1 0.2 Miles



USDA Forest Service
Prescott National Forest
Bradsheaw Ranger District
Version: 081816JW

Greater Prescott Trails Planning Midterm Project #1 Area A



USDA Forest Service
Prescott National Forest
Bradshaw Ranger District
Version: 08182016JW
Draft Environmental Assessment



Map Scale: 1:65,000
0 0.5 1 Miles

Proposed Trails

- Multiuse-Motorized
- Hike & Bike
- Horse, Hike, Bike
- Proposed Rd Conversions

Ownership

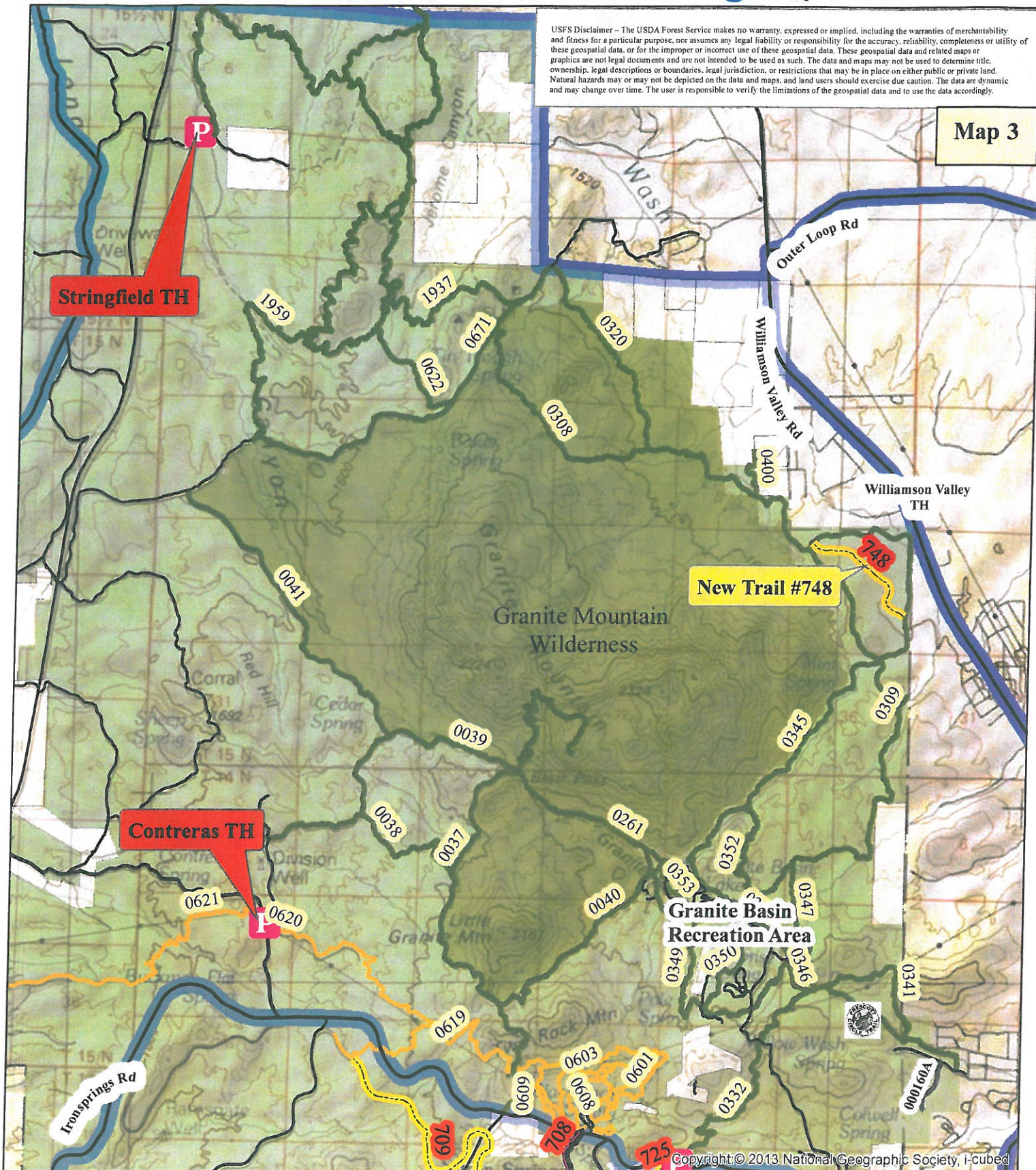
- Forest
- Other
- Wilderness
- Planning Area Boundaries

USFS System Trails

- Motorized
- Non-Motorized
- Proposed Trailheads

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Map 3



Greater Prescott Trails Planning-Midterm Project #1 Area C



USDA Forest Service
Prescott National Forest
Bradshaw Ranger District
Version: 081816JW
Draft Environmental Assessment



Map Scale: 1:40,000
0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Proposed Trails

- Multiuse-Motorized
- Hike & Bike
- Horse, Hike, Bike
- Proposed Trailheads

Ownership

- Forest
- Other
- Wilderness

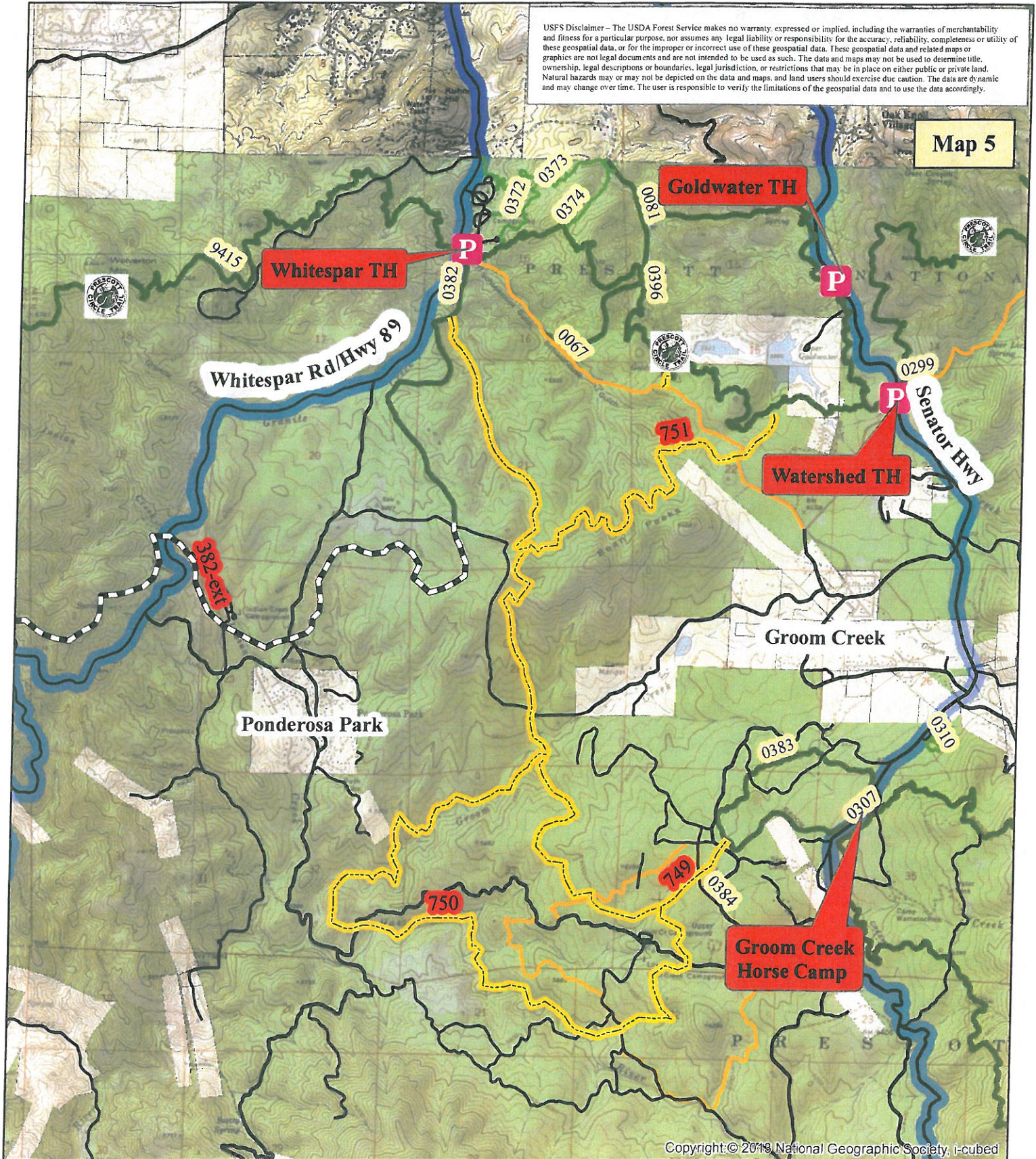
USFS System Trails

- Motorized
- Non-Motorized

Planning Area Boundaries

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Map 5



Greater Prescott Trails Planning-Midterm Project #1 Area D



USDA Forest Service
Prescott National Forest
Bradshaw Ranger District
Version: 081816JW
Draft Environmental Assessment



Map Scale: 1:40,000
0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Proposed Trails

- Multiuse-Motorized
- Hike & Bike
- Horse, Hike, Bike
- Proposed Trailheads

Ownership

- Forest
- Other
- Wilderness

USFS System Trails

- Motorized
- Non-Motorized

Planning Area Boundaries

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Map 6

